



Engaging Youth in your Community

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Agenda



What is Youth Development??

- Activity: Take a minute and think back to your childhood. Come up with about 3 of your best memories from your neighborhood.
 - What are those memories?
 - What role did adults play in your development?

Youth in your community

- Now take a moment to think about the youth that live in your communities. What are some of things they are doing on a daily basis? Do you notice any similarities?

What is Youth Development?

- Youth development refers to the intentional efforts of other youth, adults, communities, government agencies and schools to provide opportunities for youth to enhance their interests, skills and abilities.
- So what does that mean????

Youth Development, cont.

- In a nutshell, youth development is how the community and adults help shape the interests and success of youth around them
- Youth look to the relationships that they have with the adults around them as a sort of guidance to what they will grow up to be, and their attitudes toward life

So how do we do it???

- Youth have several basic needs:
 - Like us adults, youth want to feel connected and supported
 - Some of their greatest needs include forming lasting relationship with adults and being connected and involved in their communities
 - Youth also want to feel involved in their communities
 - They want to contribute to their communities

Community+ Adults = Healthy Youth

- Common questions/ concerns of adults
 - Why are the youth just hanging in the street?
 - Why do they make all this noise?
 - What else can you think of?



"SOMEDAY, WHEN OUR PRE-FRONTAL CORTEXES ARE FULLY DEVELOPED, WE'LL LOOK BACK ON THIS AND SHAKE OUR HEADS."

Adultism???

The adult role in youth development

What is an Adultist?

- An adultist is someone who actively exerts their power as an adult over a child/youth
 - Why is this important to know?

Examples

- Often times, it is very easy for adults to jump into the role of “ I am the adult, they are the child” or “ They are just kids, they don’t know anything” or (my personal favorite) “ Kids are just in the way! I would rather just do things myself”

How to overcome it!

- It is a process, but once you realize that youth have 1) needs and 2) are your greatest asset, then you are on the right path
- Realize that you are there to help guide youth on the right path, but also use them to help keep your communities, clean, safe and quiet!
- Youth, with your help, can also bring great resources and change to your communities.

Food for thought.....

- What are some things that your community can do to support youth?
- What are some things that your community is already doing to support the youth?
 - Write you responses on the sticky pad in the back of the room

Sustainable Partnerships and Programs

*Points to remember when building strong community
relationships*

Gretchen Sutphin

Definition

sus·tain·a·ble sə'stānəb(ə)l/

adjective

adjective: **sustainable**

- **1. able to be maintained at a certain rate or level.**

"sustainable fusion reactions"

- **conserving an ecological balance by avoiding depletion of natural resources.**

"our fundamental commitment to sustainable development"

- **2. able to be upheld or defended.**

"sustainable definitions of good educational practice"

Sustainable Partnerships

- Renewable
- Beneficial – to both or all sides
- Provide a service for ongoing need
- Have defined goals with measurables
 - Awareness
 - Fundraiser
 - Educational
 - Service

Repeat Business

- How do you get them come back?
- How do you gain more support?
- How do you keep volunteers?

Types of Resources/Sponsorships

- Monetary
- In- Kind
- Time
- Expertise
- Marketing and Advertising
- Volunteers
-

Types of Volunteers

- Individual
 - Group
 - Directed
 - Millenials
 - Gen X-er's
 - Baby Boomers
- ❖ All have different needs and desires for recognition

Connecting the Dots

- Networking
 - You already know someone
 - They already know someone
 - Ask questions
 - Tell them what you need
- You never know who has a resource
- Don't discount a resource
- Think outside the box
- BUT think about the benefits to your resource partner

Repeat Business

- How do you get them come back?
- How do you gain more support?
- How do you keep volunteers?

Benefitting Everyone

- Collaborating is not about contracting out a problem, it's about building a mutually beneficial partnership.
- Attempt to understand their business
- Provide an Education
- Anticipate their needs
- Maintain contact
- Foster the relationship
- Be upfront

Identifying Needs

- Everyone has their own reason for getting involved with a community program, project or event.
- Businesses
 - Public Relations
 - Increase business sales
 - Philanthropic
 - Personal Satisfaction
- Individuals
 - Personal gain
 - Personal satisfaction
 - Community service
- Other non-profits
 - Cross promotion
 - Exposure
 - Important contacts

Working smarter, not harder

- ◉ Look first to those already in your network
- ◉ People are willing to help, you just have to ask the questions
- ◉ Spell things out the first time
- ◉ Give THANKS!
- ◉ Use every method you can to recognize your partners!!



Bryce Badura

The Munchkin Run!